



**Notre Dame**  
CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



**Stella Maris**  
Leadership Award<sup>TM</sup>

# MAKING LEADERS SHINE

Stella Maris Leadership Award Information Guide

“THE STELLA MARIS LEADERSHIP AWARD  
PUSHES YOU TO HELP OTHERS AND SETS  
YOU APART FROM THE CROWD WHEN  
APPLYING FOR UNIVERSITIES AND JOBS.”



STELLA MARIS LEADERSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY  
AT NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



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# REACH FOR THE STARS



**The Stella Maris Leadership Award aims to help you shine and thrive to be a well-rounded individual and ready for your next steps.**

There are three levels of the award: bronze, silver and gold. Each award is recognised by a star shaped badge, and certificate.



To earn your Stella Maris Leadership Awards, you need to achieve virtue commendations. These are awarded by your teachers and documented electronically. You will also record your progress in your Stella Maris Leadership Award log book to make sure you are on track to achieve an award. Below is a breakdown of what virtues and activities you need to complete. Good luck!

## Virtue Commendations & Awards

## Evidence & Tasks

### Gold Award

Focus: Innovation | Caritas – Love



Achieve the criteria for the bronze and silver awards.



Achieve at least **four** virtue commendations: at least **one** from **each of the four** virtue categories.

Complete an innovative project or organise an event independently and provide evidence for this. Speak to your PTE teacher about this.

Achieve excellent PTE attendance – showing outstanding commitment to developing yourself emotionally, spiritually and intellectually beyond your chosen academic courses.

Complete a logbook including four virtue reviews and **a reflection on your Gold award project.**

### Silver Award

Focus: Leadership | Fides – Faith



Achieve the criteria for the bronze award.



Achieve at least **four** different virtue commendations, from any virtue category.

Complete at least **5–6 hours of volunteering** or participation and provide evidence for this.

Achieve excellent PTE attendance – showing outstanding commitment to developing yourself emotionally, spiritually and intellectually beyond your chosen academic courses.

In your log book, complete **four** detailed virtue reviews.

### Bronze Award

Focus: Service | Spes – Hope



Achieve at least **one** civic virtue commendation for **service** or **responsible citizenship.**



Achieve at least **one** other virtue commendation, from any category.

Excellent PTE attendance – showing outstanding commitment to developing yourself emotionally, spiritually and intellectually beyond your chosen academic courses.

In your log book, complete **two** detailed virtue reviews.

# VIRTUES FOR LEADERSHIP



Below are some of the virtues you can act out by helping others, contributing to the common good, and achieve your star award.

Virtue Category	Commendation Virtues	Ideas to Achieve
<b>Intellectual virtues</b> 	<b>Temperance</b> <b>Humility</b> <b>Love of Learning</b> <b>Sense of Humour</b> <b>Attentiveness</b> <b>Creativity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go the extra mile in your lessons.</li> <li>• Student of the Month.</li> <li>• Bounce back when things go wrong.</li> <li>• Manage tough conversations.</li> <li>• Take part in extra revision sessions.</li> <li>• Exceed in assessments.</li> </ul>
<b>Moral virtues</b> 	<b>Justice</b> <b>Gratitude</b> <b>Honesty</b> <b>Respect</b> <b>Compassion</b> <b>Forgiveness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive attitude to learning.</li> <li>• Helping someone in need.</li> <li>• Standing up for what is right.</li> <li>• Fundraise and charity work.</li> <li>• Mentoring others.</li> <li>• Having a mature approach.</li> </ul>
<b>Civic virtues</b> 	<b>Courtesy</b> <b>Responsible Citizenship</b> <b>Service</b> <b>Integrity</b> <b>Generosity</b> <b>Loyalty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer at an event.</li> <li>• Have 100% attendance.</li> <li>• Send a Christmas card.</li> <li>• Give to the community.</li> <li>• Contribute in lessons.</li> <li>• Help a friend or teacher.</li> </ul>
<b>Performance virtues</b> 	<b>Courage</b> <b>Confidence</b> <b>Perseverance</b> <b>Resilience</b> <b>Determination</b> <b>Self-Discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a presentation.</li> <li>• Overcome an obstacle.</li> <li>• Commit to a cause or task.</li> <li>• Take part in a competition.</li> <li>• Step out your comfort zone.</li> <li>• Embrace challenges.</li> </ul>



# YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS TODAY



## Congratulations on starting your Stella Maris journey.

Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College is the only Catholic sixth form in Leeds and was founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1898 to provide education for the disadvantaged and poor in the community. It is with immense pride that we share this heritage with all our staff and students.

Our mission, inspired by the Christian tradition, is to be a community based on faith, hope, and love. We believe education is about the holistic formation of the whole person, developing each individual intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, to help equip them to live life to the fullest. To achieve this mission, and inspired by the work of the *Jubilee Centre Framework for Character Education in Schools* (2017) and *Virtues for Catholic Schools*, a research project for the Diocese of Leeds (2018), we created a student leadership award based on virtues aimed at developing 'good character'.

The Stella Maris Leadership Award, based on the Intellectual, Moral, Civic, and Performance Catholic virtues, is now a nationally recognised programme. We designed the award to cultivate the habits and virtues in students necessary to be well-rounded individuals who can meet the challenges of the 21st century, navigate life, and demonstrate stewardship. Ultimately, the aim is for each member of the College community to practice the virtues to become 'my best self,' to develop good sense or practical wisdom, and to reflect on how to be shining lights of good character.

To lay the foundation for good character, we believe we need to create an environment in which students gain virtue literacy through both the teaching of virtues such as respect, perseverance, and responsibility, and the opportunities to practice and apply these skills in college, at home, and in the community. All students work towards the Gold Level, and through the teachings in Core RE, supported by the curriculum and tutorials, they learn about the virtues and how these can be acquired through deliberate acts.

The Stella Maris Leadership Award underpins the commitment to Catholic Social Teaching through the development and acting out of virtues.

### OUR MISSION AND ETHOS

Our mission inspired by the Christian tradition is to be a community based on **faith, hope and love**; developing each individual intellectually, emotionally and spiritually to achieve their full potential.

#### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Subsidiarity

Solidarity

Dignity of the  
Human Person

The Common Good

### DID YOU KNOW...

The name Stella Maris is one given to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and is the name given to the star Polaris, or North Star, because of its role as guide to travellers, just like Mary is a guide to how to live out the virtues.



CHARITY PAFRAS BAKE SALE



HOMELESS SLEEPOUT FUNDRAISER



COLLEGE ECO-STEWARDS

# ENDORSED BY UNIVERSITIES



## Endorsed and supported by all UK Catholic universities

Notre Dame are proud to have all four Catholic universities across the United Kingdom endorse and support the Stella Maris Leadership Award.



The Catholic universities recognise the importance of character education and what the Stella Maris Leadership Award represents – our students' commitment to living out the virtues and becoming the leaders of tomorrow.



# RECOGNISED SUCCESS



## Ofsted and ACE Character Quality Mark recognition



*Staff prepare students very effectively for their futures and for life in modern Britain.*

*All students participate in the innovative Stella Maris Leadership Award, which has been developed by college leaders.*

*Students value the award, both for the development of their full potential as a member of society and for their future career prospects.*



'Outstanding' Ofsted report



*The Stella Maris programme is the central vehicle to the development of character.*

*The initiative provides a strong framework for motivating students to 'seek out' opportunities where they can develop their character, and become ethical and civic-minded young leaders.*

*Students are able to discuss how their participation in Stella Maris activities develops specific virtues, helping them to flourish in life.*



Association of Character Education report



ACE School of  
**CHARACTER**

